

CLASSIFICATION

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone) REPORT NO.

TOPIC Military Information from the Zehdenick-Templin Area

EVALUATION 25X1 PLACE OBTAINED 25X1

DATE OF CONTENT 13 to 21 August 1951

DATE OBTAINED DATE PREPARED 12 September 1951

REFERENCES 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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- 25X1 1. During the period from 13 to 18 August 1951, the troops at the Zehdenick-Templin troop training grounds were seen training intensively with gas masks. Even a colonel had to have his gas mask ready at all times. All troops were positively forbidden to leave the camp at night, source only saw some officers who dared to leave the camp for a glass of beer or to see their girls.
- 25X1 Security measures were extremely strict.
- 25X1 2. Field exercises of trained troops gradually increased. The units left for a two-day field exercise after an alarm on 17 August. The units departed in formation, lead by at least 40 tanks, primarily T-34s and T-34/85s.
- 25X1 These were followed by 8 to 10 sedans with officers, numerous signal vehicles with radio and telephone equipment, a large number of trucks with troops. An artillery unit, apparently equipped with medium AT guns, brought up the rear. Seven infantry units of about 60 men each were subsequently seen leaving the camp on foot. Young soldiers who remained in the camp were seen receiving training in firing, combat practice, map reading, gas defense and signal-communication. (1)
- 25X1 3. Vehicular traffic in the Zehdenick-Templin area remained the same. Refrigerator cars were unloaded at the railroad stations at a rate of 1 or 2 per day. Field exercises, conducted at day or night, were at company level.
4. Fuel was unloaded from a train of 28 tank cars at the Vogelsang railroad station on the evening of 17 August.
5. A troop train was loaded at the Zehdenick railroad station during the night of 20 August. The station was completely blacked out. When a searchlight was on for a short time, source saw 6 pontoons, various engineer equipment and 2 boats of a hitherto unobserved type. The boats were about 8 meters long, very flat, about 2.5 meters wide without superstructures but with a stern ramp, and loaded in truck trailers. The train departed toward Loewenberg at 3 a.m. on 21 August. (3)
- 25X1 6. Residents of Burgwall stated that tanks, including tanks operated by student drivers, repeatedly attempted to ford the Havel River.

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[ ] the tanks crossed the river, which was 35 meters wide and 3 meters deep at the location used, by driving over logs, about 20 cm in diameter, kept on the river bottom by stones.

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[ ] Local residents said that the unit had come from Eberswalde. Prior to crossing the river, the tanks were furnished with a pipe, about 1 meter long, which fitted exactly into the turret hatch, and with a flexible metal hose attached to the exhaust. All apertures of the tank were carefully sealed with Stauffer grease. The tank commanders directed the tanks, standing in the pipe fitted into the turret hatch. All vehicles forded the river without any incidents, with the exception of one T-34 tank which stalled in the middle. While fording the river, the T-34 tanks were completely submerged except for the top sections of the turret pipe and the exhaust pipe, whereas the JS-2 tanks projected above the water level a few centimeters. Despite the careful greasing, a considerable quantity of water entered the vehicles.

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7. On 12 August, it was observed that numerous Soviet military trucks were driven by civilians. (4)

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(2)

Comments.

As has been generally observed at troop training grounds in the Soviet Zone of Germany, the field exercises at Templin were also conducted at regimental level. The column probably practiced reconnaissance on the march, with the advance guard being highly mobile and consisting of an unusually strong armored spearhead, command elements, motorized infantry elements and AT artillery, and followed by the less mobile main body.

(2)

The tank train was unloaded by vehicles of the 25th Tank Div.

(3)

The train departed carrying those engineer units which have been engaged in intensive practice in the Templin area since the middle of July 1951.

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(4)

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